

HOUSE BILL 2371

By Shaw

AN ACT to name the Army Aviation Support Facility in Jackson in honor of the late Chief Warrant Officer 3 William T. Flanigan of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer; always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, our State has given birth to many fine soldiers whose deeds of valor and honor have reflected favorably on the Volunteer State, even as they have inspired us all to reach for greater glory; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways, bridges, and buildings to honor the memory of those courageous members of our military forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Chief Warrant Officer 3 William T. Flanigan, who was a member of Troop R, 4th Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, CWO3 Flanigan was killed while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom VII, when his AH-64 Apache helicopter crashed near an airbase in Kandahar, Afghanistan on July 2, 2006; and

WHEREAS, William T. Flanigan had been a proud member of the Tennessee Army National Guard since July of 2003; assigned to 4/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, CWO3 Flanigan served as the Unit Instructor Pilot and the Unit Instrument Flight Examiner; and

WHEREAS, CWO3 Flanigan served with great distinction as a member of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment; his many awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award); Army Superior Unit Award; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; NATO Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Armed Forces Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Army Aviator Badge; Aviation Badge; Air Assault Badge; Air Medal; Tennessee War Service Ribbon; and Order of Saint Michael; and

WHEREAS, the son of Joyce and William Flanigan, this valiant soldier is survived by his loving wife, Cassie, and their two children, Brodie and Meghan; the family resided in Medina, where they attended the First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Flanigan did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty, and as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, William T. Flanigan served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, this brave soldier deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Flanigan's dedication to excellence in the military and his love for his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, as exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stands as an enduring example of the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate for this General Assembly to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Chief Warrant Officer 3 William T. Flanigan by naming the Army Aviation Support Facility in Jackson in his honor; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Army Aviation Support Facility Number 3 located at 2254 Westover Road in Jackson is hereby designated the "Chief Warrant Officer 3 William T. Flanigan Building" in recognition of the life of valor and death in military action of the late Chief Warrant Officer 3 William T. Flanigan of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

SECTION 2. The Department of Military is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such edifice as the "Chief Warrant Officer 3 William T. Flanigan Building."

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.